

require action by multiple agencies. The Administration will also turn to existing external networks—including State and local government associations, schools of public policy and management, think tanks, and professional associations—to enlist their assistance on specific problems and in spreading effective performance management practices.

Mr. CUELLAR did a good job last week in the first of these two appearances on the same bill. He said it was something he really wanted to pass. He said it was his bill. I don't think the fact that it is amended would make it less his bill, but it isn't his bill really. It's written by the administration, codified by the Senate, and sent over to us in the 11th hour when, in fact, it could, in the next Congress, actually go through a review process to see if we could actually mandate something more than what the President's doing, if we should mandate what the President is already doing, or, quite frankly, if we should tie the hands of the next President by simply codifying the elective actions of this President.

□ 1510

Now, there was a letter that came purportedly, and I am sure it did, from somebody in the Bush administration. And I will be interested to see when it was written because this President has systematically chosen to make changes in how the last President did performance. I am not going to say that President Bush was the best or that what President Obama is doing is different; but there are differences, and these differences are the elective right of the President to try to do these.

So with all due respect, Madam Speaker, I will still be voting "no" on this second Groundhog Day on this bill. I will still believe that if we had had a chance in the next Congress we could have done better and would have done better.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

#### FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to the House amendment to the Senate amendment with an amendment:

H.R. 3082. An act making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

#### GPRA MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2010—Continued

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized.

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank the ranking member. The letter was written by Robert Shea who worked with President Bush. It was written in June of this year. Mr. Shea still supports the bill as it has been passed by the Senate.

Again, when the bill first passed here, this was a bill that did get some changes. I believe the major change that the gentleman is referring to is a provision that he authored that would have required agencies to evaluate performance goals twice a year. Those provisions added significantly to the cost of the bill. And when this bill first passed the House, it had a \$150 million cost. By taking those provisions, it was reduced down to \$75 million, which is \$15 million a year.

This is a bipartisan bill that updates the 1993 legislation. The original co-sponsors include myself, several other Members, including Congressman PLATTS and Congressman MCCAUL. And in the Senate, Senate supporters that we have are VOINOVICH; COLLINS; WARNER, who took the lead on this, AKAKA, Senator LIEBERMAN, and basically Senator COBURN who had an amendment. So this is a bipartisan bill. It will not add a single penny to the deficit. In fact, it will save taxpayers' dollars. I urge support of it.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we now suspend these and go to the bill that has been received from the Senate. Obviously, the American people are desperately waiting to see us fund a government that is going without money as of midnight tonight and respectfully say that it is appropriate to take up the business of the funding of this government at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would entertain such a request only if the gentleman from Texas yields for that purpose.

Mr. ISSA. Will the gentleman from Texas yield for the important work of the American people?

Mr. CUELLAR. I certainly yield.

Mr. ISSA. I hereby make the motion that we do suspend the proceedings and go to—

Mr. CUELLAR. But I do object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will suspend.

The Chair did not hear the response of the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. CUELLAR. The gentleman objects.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California to reclaim his time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, point of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his point his order.

Mr. ISSA. I believe that the gentleman from Texas yielded time upon your request that you would only consider my request to move to the business of appropriating for this current fiscal year. That motion is still there. He yielded. I would like that motion to be heard that we suspend this and move to the business of appropriations for this fiscal year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair heard objection to the unanimous consent request from the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ISSA. I hereby move—not unanimous consent—that we do so. I make a motion that we suspend and that we move to the business of the American people's funding for this fiscal year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair advises the gentleman that such a motion is not admissible.

The Chair continues to recognize the gentleman from California for purposes of debate on the pending motion to concur.

Mr. ISSA. I thank the Speaker.

Madam Speaker, when Robert Johnson Shea recommended this bill before us, it wasn't this bill before us. This is a completely different bill, dramatically changed. So I believe that when people who will come and vote on this consider this, they should discount completely a recommendation from a Bush administration official that speaks to a bill that Mr. CUELLAR authored which bears very little resemblance to this one.

As I said earlier, this bill today simply puts into statute what the President is already on an elective basis doing, ties the hands of a future President without providing any new authority for the President to do a better job.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, Mr. Shea, a Bush appointee, supports this bill even as it has passed the Senate. Again, this is a bipartisan bill supported by both Democrats and Republicans. I ask support of this bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I think all was said that needed to be said in the 15 minutes a side last week. The only thing that can yet be said in my closing is we are better than this, Madam Speaker. We should not accept something on a closed rule without any possibility of amendment when in fact the Senate took what we had passed, completely amended it, and sent it back completely different.

Madam Speaker, I know that process is not something that is often talked about on this floor as though it is important. But, Madam Speaker, in the next Congress it is clear that process is important, that debate and deliberation is important, that we not simply take what the Senate takes, allow them to change it completely, send it back to us bearing no resemblance, and not have a conference.

If this bill is so important, as Mr. CUELLAR says, that it be passed in a lame duck session, then Madam Speaker, isn't it so important that it should have gone through a conference process or at least that the Senate or House leaders would have come to the committee of jurisdiction and at least asked us what needed to be changed in order to get our support? They didn't have that support.

Like any bill, you will pick off a few Texans for a Texan's bill, or you will pick off a few Members, that doesn't make it bipartisan. It certainly wasn't